

Statement of Eddie Jones  
President Los Angeles Civil Rights Association

On behalf of the Los Angeles Civil Rights Assn., I want to thank the Honorable Diane Watson and other members of this Congressional Committee for holding hearings on the crucial, life and death issue of gang and gun violence in inner city communities. This is a deeply troubling issue that I have devoted my time and energy for the past five years grappling with. I am convinced that there are three crucial things that are needed to reduce the carnage in our neighborhoods. The first is a comprehensive jobs and skills training program for our youth to provide them with meaningful employment.

The second is a curb and crackdown on the free flow of automatic weapons in our communities. The third is encouraging greater involvement and intervention by church, community organizations, parent groups and educators in giving guidance and direction to young persons.

I have proposed the creation of a multipurpose Basic Life Training Skills Center. This would involve the groups and parents I mentioned in providing and supporting job training, computer skills, recreational facilities, and parenting skill programs. I applaud this committee in its efforts to curb youth violence and encourage you to strongly consider my proposals. Thank You

Recent Anti-Violence Actions of the Los Angeles Civil Rights Assn.:

2004-2006

Coordinated three forums on gang violence and prevention  
Campaigned successfully for a cross walk to reduce accidents to young persons following the accidental motor death of Demaria Grant

Led anti-violence walks and candlelight vigils following the murders of three young men on Central Avenue and the murder of Ashley Ceval

Anti-violence vigil following the murder of three year-old Katyln Avila.